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Agenda item 72 (b)

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION: REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

South Africa: draft resolution

Expansion of the membership of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Conference on Disarmament, 1/ and in particular the part concerning expansion of the membership of the Conference,

Stressing the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral global negotiating body on disarmament,

Emphasizing the fact that, notwithstanding dramatic changes in the international situation and continuous consultations, there has been no expansion of the membership of the Conference during the last seventeen years,

Fully convinced that an enlarged membership is desirable in order to take advantage of the current propitious international climate to negotiate and conclude, on the solid basis of a more representative participation, a comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty and other important agreements requiring universal adherence,

Recognizing the legitimate aspirations of all candidate countries to participate fully in the work of the Conference on Disarmament, and recalling relevant decisions taken to review the composition of the Conference, including

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/50/27).

the agreement reached among the Member States during the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament on a further expansion and on the wish to review the membership of the then Committee on Disarmament at regular intervals,

Noting that the Conference on Disarmament, which is funded from the regular budget, was granted, pursuant to resolution 48/77 B of 16 December 1993, supplementary administrative, substantive and conference support services, inter alia, in anticipation of its expansion,

Recalling in particular resolution 49/77 B of 15 December 1994, adopted without a vote, urging the Conference on Disarmament to make every effort to reach a solution resulting, by the beginning of 1995, in a significant expansion of its composition, which would then include at least sixty countries,

Strongly regretting, nevertheless, that the decision of the Conference on Disarmament to adopt the report of the then Special Coordinator for Membership, and the recommended composition attached to it, taken at the end of the 1995 session did not result in the immediate expansion of its membership,

1. Recalls the report of 12 August 1993 of the Special Coordinator for Membership 2/ designated by the Conference on Disarmament and the subsequent statement made by the Special Coordinator on 26 August 1993, recommending a dynamic solution to the question of membership;

2. Recognizes the legitimate aspirations of all countries that have applied for membership to participate fully in the work of the Conference on Disarmament;

3. Acknowledges decision CD/1356 3/ taken at the 719th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament on 21 September 1995, including the commitment to implement the decision at the earliest possible date;

4. Calls for the implementation of decision CD/1356 on the expansion of membership of the Conference on Disarmament on an urgent basis;

5. Strongly urges that the new members should, in pursuance of decision CD/1356 and with particular reference to the provisions contained in paragraph 2 of that decision, all assume together membership of the Conference at the start of the 1996 session of the Conference;

6. Calls on the Conference on Disarmament, in accordance with its decision CD/1356, to review the situation following the presentation of progress reports by the President of the Conference on ongoing consultations at the end of each part of its annual session.

2/ See ibid., Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/48/27), para. 13 (incorporating document CD/1214).

3/ Ibid., Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/50/27), para. 14.